

one for a paper on a research study, the other for a paper on a clinical subject, would be annually awarded.

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All Annual Session Papers Eligible.—Because of the somewhat limited number of papers which were presented, it was decided more recently to make any paper which was read at an annual session eligible for consideration, when such paper was previously registered for consideration. The rules of procedure in prize awards may be had on application to the Association secretary. These rules have also been printed in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE and in the 1930 *Directory* of the California Medical Association.

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Shall the Prizes Be Continued?—Each prize is for the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars. The prizes of the 1930 annual session at Del Monte were awarded to Drs. Bogen and Hara and were printed in the official journal (July CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 473, and September CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 628). CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE again calls attention to these prizes and urges members who can do so to coöperate, either by submitting papers of their own or by inducing other members to submit reports and papers. The Council of the California Medical Association is anxious to maintain the prizes, but will feel warranted in so doing only if a sufficient number of members show an interest therein. In our Association of some five thousand members it should be possible to secure the sufficient coöperation necessary to continue these prizes. The blame for non-coöperation would naturally rest somewhat more heavily upon the younger members of the Association.

"CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY"—THE 1931 EDITION

The Rosters in the California Medical Association Directory.—Some time in January a copy of the 1931 edition of the *Directory of the California Medical Association* will be mailed to each member. Some comments on this important publication may be in order.

Our *Directory* is intended primarily to give a roster of the entire California Medical Association membership. This is done in two ways, namely, through an alphabetical index of the entire state society membership, and through an index of members in component county societies, also arranged alphabetically.

Many members who use these rosters do so as a matter of such ordinary course that they fail to appreciate the convenience and saving of time and effort which are made possible by these printed lists of members which our Association annually places on our desks. If this usefulness did not so constantly exist, it is a question

whether the state association would wish to expend so much of its funds for this particular publication.

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A Larger General Information Section.—In addition to the rosters, this year's *Directory* will present more than the usual amount of printed matter in its foreword or general information section. It is hoped that the presentation of this additional information will so commend itself to California Medical Association members that the officers of the Association will feel justified in its continuance.

There is naturally a complete list of officers, not only of the California Medical Association, but of associated activities such as the state boards of health and medical examiners. Information concerning the annual clinical and research prizes, and of publication rules and suggestions for papers intended for CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE are also given. A list of county, state and federal hospitals in California with bed capacities of each is also printed.

From one of the publications of the Medical Society of the State of New York the principles of professional conduct and other matter is reprinted. An interesting article from the legal counsel of the Los Angeles Orthopedic Hospital, on "Refreshment of Memory" in medico-legal cases is also presented. There are also tables giving list of state society presidents, of total state society membership in recent years, of 1930 county society membership. Licentiate totals for different counties are also printed.

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Some History of Fifty Years Ago.—The Council granted the request of the state association committee on history, that some space be given to a presentation of historical material. It is a sad but none the less necessary confession that in spite of a state association career that started as long ago as March 12, 1856, that the historical information in the files of the Association is very sparse. However, that condition only makes more necessary the early and active beginning in the collection of California Medical Association memorabilia.

In the 1931 directory will be printed a considerable number of excerpts of one of the first directories of our association, namely, that of some fifty years ago, of the year 1878. Since only a few members have access to the directory of that year, it seemed fitting that its contents be so excerpted that somewhat of the problems and the outlook of organized medicine of that period might be the better appreciated by our present-day members. Attention is called to this portion of the *Directory* in the hope that sufficient interest may be created therein so that members of the California Medical Association will give themselves the pleasure of reading these historical excerpts from the days of a half century ago. A photo cut of the old Toland Hall of the Univer-

sity of California Medical Department is reproduced. Likewise two small cuts which were used to better portray the text of "tonics" from the advertising pages. Those two cuts show how advertising illustrations, with other things, have progressed in the last five decades.

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Every Component Society Should Compile a Brief County Society History in 1931.—We cannot leave this topic of medical history without urging the officers of every county medical society to appoint a special committee on history, the function of which would be to compile during the coming year at least a skeleton outline of the organization and subsequent career of their respective organization. If, for instance, a complete list of county society officers, year by year, were compiled, that would make an excellent beginning, because with such information at hand the state committee on history would be in position to turn to still living officers of former days, and secure narrative and other information concerning the past. Such a sketchy historical outline for each county medical society would make an interesting addition to the California Medical Association directory of the year 1932. In such a local committee on history, in addition to one or two older members, it might be desirable to appoint one or more younger members who could go through the minute books and other records and so make compilations of the list of officers and other data.

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Pride of Organization and of Family Go Together.—Pride of organization is as commendable as pride of family. The material for an authoritative history of the California Medical Association should have been gathered some time ago. However, it is still not too late, if each component county society will at once cooperate as above indicated. Such an expression of internal development, if successfully carried out from Del Norte County in the north, to Imperial and San Diego in the south, would make the year 1931 one to be remembered in the historical annals of the California Medical Association. It is a worthy cause and work, and if we leave it undone it will be a reflection on us for which our successors will probably reproach us.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN AID OF MATERNAL AND INFANT WELFARE— THE SO-CALLED SHEPARD- TOWNER ACTS

The Notable Record of the United States Public Health Service.—The United States Public Health Service has long been in existence and is widely known as one of the efficient arms of our national government. It has a record of able service which other governmental services would find difficult to match. Its most creditable record, decade after decade, in all phases of public health work from the beginning has been

founded in very large part on a departmental personnel of high standard. From its inception the medical men who have guided the destinies of this important department of our national government have given of themselves most generously, and through their special professional training have been in position to render exceptional service to the public.

With such a consistent record of successful achievement in the past, would it not be fair and logical to assume that this well-organized department, which, as its name and its present organization imply, has a natural custodianship and supervision over national public health interests, would be able to meet future responsibilities in fullest measure?

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The So-called Shepard-Towner Legislation for Maternal and Infant Welfare.—The above, by way of introduction to some comments on certain public health legislation known as the Shepard-Towner Act and its successors, which bills might be outlined in calendar sequence somewhat as follows:

Phase 1. The Original Bill (so-called Shepard-Towner Act) approved November 23, 1921. (This Act by its terms was to become inoperative June 30, 1927.)

Phase 2. Extension Period for Above Act. (This was passed by the Sixty-ninth Congress as a result of an intense propaganda and fight, and was for an extension period of only two years, to end June 30, 1929.)

Phase 3. This phase is still pending, and is represented by several proposed Acts now before Congress, and which merit the serious attention of the medical profession, as follows:

(a) The Jones-Cooper bills (Senate No. 255; House R. No. 1195—this measure has already had Senate hearings).

(b) The Cooper-Robson bills (Senate No. 4738; House R. No. 12995).

If you are interested, and you and your society should be, you should write to one of your senators for copies of the above senate bills, and to one of your representatives for copies of the above house bills. A list of the United States Senators and Representatives from the states of California, Nevada and Utah is printed in the legislation column of this number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (see page 70).

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Some of the Purposes of the Original Shepard-Towner Act.—The original Shepard-Towner act (elapsed November, 1927), and its successor (elapsed in 1929) was intended to promote the development of public health work referred to as "maternal and infant welfare" by offering federal funds for such work to states of the Union which would meet in equal amounts the federal allocation of funds for such work, provided the work was carried on in accordance with rules laid down by the federal authorities. The work was carried on through the "Children's Bureau," which is a federal government activity or bureau having a place in the United States Department of Labor.